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NOTES ON TWO BAHAMAN LYCAENIDAE, WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES

BY HARRY K. CLENCH

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NOTES ON TWO BAHAMAN LYCAENIDAE, WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES

By Harry K. Clench

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On examining certain Antillean lycaenids in the collection of the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy (M. C. Z.), two species from the Bahamas were found which seem to be worth mentioning. The first, *Strymon maesites* Herrich-Schäffer (1864), appears to represent a new record for the islands, and the second, a new subspecies of *Strymon angelia* Hewitson (1874), presents various characters which render it quite distinct from the typical race inhabiting Cuba and Jamaica. This subspecies was recorded by E. M. Sharpe from New Providence under the typical name (see citation below).

Very little appears to be known about the butterflies of the Bahamas. New Providence Island, due to its accessibility, is the best known of all, but even here one might easily turn up something of note. Casual collecting on Cat Island has brought to light many interesting things, among which *Strymon maesites* is a good example. There is no question that intensive collecting on any of the islands will result in many new records and perhaps the discovery of several new forms.

I wish to thank Mr. Nathan Banks for his kindness in permitting me to study the M. C. Z. collection.

Strymon maesites Herrich-Schäffer (1864)

Thecla maesites Herrich Schäffer, 1864, Correspb. Zool. Min. Ver. Regensb. *18*, p. 165.

As far as known this is the first record of this species from the Bahamas. Two males and four females were taken by my father

Mr. W. J. Clench, near the settlement of Arthurs Town, Cat Island, on July 16, 1935. The species was flying in considerable numbers about low bushes growing on little islands in a shallow salt pan. The number and condition of the specimens would indicate that the species is native and not of accidental occurrence. Cat Island is one of the easterly islands of the Bahama archipelago, and is about 200 miles in a straight line from Cuba.

This species has been reported from Puerto Rico,(1) Cuba,(2) Florida,(3) and now the Bahamas.

In Cuba this species appears to be rather rare and local, but in Florida and the Bahamas, though it still tends to localization, it certainly is not rare.

Strymon angelia dowi, new subspecies

Tmolus angelia: E. M. Sharpe, 1900, Proc. Zoöl. Soc. London, *1900*, p. 200.

UPPERSIDE:

Male. Fore wing orange-brown, with a margin, 2 or 3 mm. thick, or dark brown on the costal and outer margins, wider at the apex. Cell generally orange-brown, with a moderate scaling of dark brown, though the color varies from largely orange to largely brown. *Hind wing* dark brown, with a few orange scales on or between the veins at which the tails originate. Inner margin lighter, with a fringe of white hair. Anal lobe orange, narrowly bordered basally by white, with several white hairs protruding over a dark outer fringe. This orange spot (the anal lobe) is largely obscured by the overgrowth of hair which is present on the hind wing. Between the anal lobe and the tail at Cu_2 there is a white line. The two tails, the shorter one at Cu_1 and the longer at Cu_2, are marked with white, both marginal and terminal in the latter, and only at the tip in the former.

Female. Uniform dark brown on both wings. Anal angle of hind wing with orange spot as in the male.

UNDERSIDE:

Male. Ground color (both wings) brownish gray. *Fore wing* with a submarginal and a post-discal band, the former angled at the apex, the latter straight. Costal margin thinly bordered with orange

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(1) Dewitz, H., 1877, Stett. Ent. Zeit., *38*, p. 41 (Tagschmetterlinge von Portorico).

(2) Bates, M., 1935, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., *78*, p. 194 (The Butterflies of Cuba).

(3) Matteson, J. H., 1930, List of the Rhopalocera of Miami, Florida, p. 13. (Privately printed); Young, F. N., 1937, Ent. News, *48*, pp. 80-81 (Notes on the Occurrence of *Strymon maesites* (Herrick-Schäffer [sic]) in Florida).

at the base. *Hind wing* with four small marginal spots outwardly bordered by a thin white line. Basal to these spots is a dark submarginal line. A rather large intercaudal black spot is bordered marginally by a white line, basally by a light brown band. Surmounting this is an orange patch basally limited by a thin black line. Orange is faintly visible over the marginal spot adjoining the large black one between the tails. A post-discal line extends from the costal margin to the inner marginal side of the large orange spot. From there it turns inward, joining the inner margin at about the center. This line is outwardly bordered with white between veins Sc and Rs, and between every vein from M_1 to the inner margin. Occasionally the M_1 - M_2 interspace lacks this. Between the subanal black spot (the intercaudal one mentioned above) and the anal angle is a round bluish patch bordered outwardly by a thin strip of white and basally by a curved bar of tan. The anal lobe is black surmounted by white. The tan bar and the white just mentioned are both basally bordered by a thin, slightly zig-zag black line. Between this line and the white-bordered post-discal one basal to it is a patch of gray.

Female. Quite similar to the male except that in the *fore wing* the submarginal line is broken up a little more, especially toward the apex. *Hind wing* with the bluish spot somewhat reduced, the post-discal line straighter, and the orange basal to the large black spot not separated from it by tan. The inner part of the post-discal line, especially toward the lower half, is slightly tinged with reddish, but as this is also found occasionally in the male it cannot be used as a character to determine sex.

The females exhibit much more of the costal orange than do the males, the orange of the females extending from base to apex, while that of the males disappears at about the middle. (This orange is only visible from the front of the specimen, from above or below it is not apparent, except at the base.)

Abdomen (in both sexes) gray above and white below.

Length of fore wing:[4] *male,* 8.5 - 9.5 mm; *female,* 7.5 - 9.5 mm.

Holotype, male, Arthurs Town, Cat Island, Bahamas, July 15, 1935 (W. J. Clench).

Allotype, female, same locality and collector, July 14, 1935.

Paratypes, four males, same locality and collector, July 15-16, 1935; two males and three females, Nassau, New Providence Island, Bahamas, June 1897 (C. J. Maynard); one male and one female, Simm's, Long Island, Bahamas, July 7, 1936 (H. D. Russell and

(4) All measurements are from base of wing to outer margin, along inner margin.

R. A. McLean); one male, Mariguana Island, Bahamas, Feb. 25, 1933 (J. C. Greenway).

Holotype, allotype, and ten paratypes, No. 25451 in the collection of the M. C. Z. Two paratypes in the collection of the author.

Remarks. Hewitson,[5] in describing *angelia* (from Cuba and Jamaica), did not mention the color of the hind wing above, and the colored plate shows it to be brown, as in *dowi*, but in all the Cuban males which I have seen, the upper surface of the hind wing is colored orange with a border of dark brown much as in the fore wing. The Jamaican male figured in color by Kaye[6] is likewise colored. In describing the underside, however, Hewitson gives "a large spot between the tails and two smaller spots near it which are crowned with orange, all black." This describes Cuban specimens much more aptly than it does specimens of *dowi*. Hewitson also states that the ground color of the underside of *angelia* is "rufous brown" which applies also more to Cuban *angelia* than to *dowi*, the ground color of the latter being more nearly gray.

The following is a comparison of *dowi* with typical *angelia* as represented by a series of Cuban specimens in the M. C. Z. and Kaye's colored figure of a Jamaican male.

UPPERSIDE:

In the male, on the hind wing above, *dowi* lacks the prominent orange-brown, present in typical *angelia* from Cuba and Jamaica.

UNDERSIDE:

The ground color in *dowi* is a brownish gray, while in Cuban *angelia* it is a warm brown.

The intercaudal black spot is smaller and more nearly round.

The marginal spots on the hind wing are distinct and uniform in size in *dowi*, but in typical *angelia* they vary from near obscurity at the apex to noticeable enlargement at the large black spot.

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(5) Hewitson, W. C., 1874, Illustrations of Diurnal Lepidoptera. Lycaenidae, p. 162, pl. 63, figs. 439-440.

(6) Kaye, W. J., 1931, Trans. Ent. Soc. London, *79*, pt. 3, p. 535, pl. 39, fig. 12 (Additions and Corrections to the Author's "Butterflies of Jamaica (1926").

There is a visible decrease in the amount of orange over the spot adjacent to the black intercaudal one.

The post-discal line of the hind wing is outwardly bordered by more white, especially on the lower half.

The gray bar above the blue area on the hind wing is almost absent in typical *angelia*.

I take pleasure in naming this new subspecies after Dr. Richard Dow, Curator of Insects at the New England Museum of Natural History, who has helped me in many ways.

IMP. EL SIGLO XX, A. MUÑIZ Y HNO., HABANA